

NEWS FROM CALVARY

“... that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”
Philemon 6

PASTOR OF LARGEST CHURCH IN NEW MEXICO MOVING BACK TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Calvary of Albuquerque's Skip Heitzig to pastor Ocean Hills Community Church in San Juan Capistrano—Pete Nelson to assume Calvary Pastorate

Skip Heitzig, pastor of Calvary of Albuquerque, is moving to Orange County, CA, to become pastor of Ocean Hills Community Church in San Juan Capistrano. Under his leadership, Calvary of Albuquerque grew to be the largest church in New Mexico, with more than 14,000 people in attendance each weekend.

The transition will be complete by mid-February. Skip Heitzig will remain as president of the Calvary of Albuquerque board of directors and continue as speaker on the nationwide Connection radio program. He will also continue to serve as Pastor Emeritus of Calvary of Albuquerque.

Calvary of Albuquerque was born in 1982 out of a Bible study begun by Skip. Today, in addition to five weekly church services, the ministry comprises a radio program heard nationally and internationally, a weekly television program, and two radio stations. Calvary of Albuquerque has also launched churches in Arizona, Colorado, and other parts of New Mexico.

Skip has deep ties to Southern California, where he grew up and his mother currently resides. He became a Christian in 1973 as a result of watching a Billy

Graham crusade on television and then studied under Pastor Chuck Smith of CC Costa Mesa until 1981.

“The very same missionary spirit that brought me to Albuquerque 22 years ago is leading me back to California,” said Skip. “Ocean Hills provides a great opportunity to help a small church grow and develop. I’m excited about this new challenge and thank God for what He has allowed Lenya and me to be a part of here in Albuquerque.” He admitted he had become very comfortable in Albuquerque and had grown to love the people and the area. After months of prayer, Skip felt like he would be disobeying God’s direction in his life if he chose not to go.

Skip is returning to California, in part, at the encouragement of Pastor Chuck, who shared his thoughts through a video that was presented to the Albuquerque congrega-



Pastor Skip Heitzig Pastor Pete Nelson

tion. “This is truly for Skip a venture of faith,” commented Pastor Chuck, “and so we would encourage you to keep him in prayer and pray that God will use him in South Orange County in the same marvelous way that God has used him in Albuquerque.”

The Calvary of Albuquerque church board includes Pastors Raul Ries and Greg Laurie. Both also sent video messages to the congregation confirming their support of Skip in this decision. Other board members spoke as Skip announced his intentions to the congregation during four emotional services before Christmas.

Skip’s wife, Lenya, choked back tears as she spoke of the love she felt for the congregation there and the difficulty of this decision. She was convinced it was the Lord’s leading and looked forward to this new challenge.

Pete Nelson assumed Skip’s position at Calvary of Albuquerque on January 4. Pete became a Christian during his senior year in high school. He also met his wife Angie at Calvary and the couple was married by Skip 15 years ago. Pete was a staff pastor at Calvary for five years before joining two Canadian friends to form the Christian rock band “The Kry,” which was based in California and traveled all over the world.

Pete has served on several church staffs, including most recently at Crosswords Church in Denver, where he has filled a significant teaching role for 2½ years. They have three children, ages 10, 9, and 7.

Pete spoke of coming back to Calvary of Albuquerque. “With the major milestones of my life taking place in Albuquerque, my family and I are thrilled about our return to this great community. As my pastor, Skip

Heitzig has been the primary mentor in my life and the ministry. It is a great honor to be called upon to lead this wonderful congregation into this next season at Calvary of Albuquerque. I am both humbled and excited.”

Skip and Lenya have a teenage son. Lenya is a popular speaker and is author of *James: Pathway to Living Faith*. Skip is the author of numerous books, including *Jesus Up Close* and *When God Prays*.

CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PROVIDES MISSIONARY CHILDREN WITH A STRONG EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Opportunity for primary school teachers at the CC Bible College in Hungary

Pastors, instructors, and other missionaries at Calvary Chapel Bible College, Europe (CCBCE) in Vajta, Hungary, needed a sound, structured, educational environment for their children. Rather than have missionary families leave the field because of insufficient schooling for their youngsters,

the Missions Ministry at CC Fort Lauderdale, FL, established Calvary Christian Academy (CCA) in 2000. They prayed that God would raise up teachers to go to Vajta to pioneer the school.

God answered that prayer by providing a dedicated faculty, a strong Christian curriculum, and academic and administrative oversight for the new school. It is now officially called CCA-Vajta and will soon enter its third year.

Class sizes are small, strong teacher-student relationships are easily forged, and the joys of discipling children educationally and spiritually abound. The teaching staff of CCA-Vajta lives on-site at CCBCE and are part of a tightly knit spiritual community.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a missionary teacher or teacher assistant at CCA-Vajta, please call Dr. Ana Steele at CC Fort Lauderdale at 954-315-4239.

CALVARY CHAPEL MEN’S CONFERENCE

Anaheim Convention Center—November 22, 2003—As the arena filled to 9,500, men were asked to fulfill their responsibilities at home, in the workplace, and in the church as well as live according to God’s Word, to live in the Spirit, and to be men of integrity.

Over 700 responded to two altar calls as they made their commitment to Jesus. One man’s prayers were answered as his brother responded to Greg Laurie’s call to follow Jesus. The brother has been regularly attending church as a new creation in Christ since the conference. Another man met with a counselor and confessed of warrants for his arrest. He committed to his life to Christ and was determined to set things straight with the law and ultimately with God.

Bob Wolf of CC Costa Mesa summed up this year’s Men’s Conference: “It is always a special time to witness the moving of the Holy Spirit as He touches so many of the men’s lives, bringing them to tears and causing us all to praise God for His faithfulness. It was also amazing to see the number of men from other denominations who attended this conference.”

The objective for Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa’s Men’s Ministry is to help men mature spiritually by grounding them in God’s Word. Speakers included Pastors Chuck Smith, Brian Brodersen, Jon Courson, Jack Hibbs, Jeff Johnson, Pancho Juarez, Greg Laurie, Steve Mays, Don McClure, Raul Ries, and David Rosales. Music was performed by Chuck Girard, Santos, and the Calvary Chapel Men’s Praise Band.



The men attending were encouraged to “Finish Strong.”

CALVARY CHAPEL VISALIA CELEBRATES EXPANSION



The expanded CC Visalia sanctuary.



8,500 square feet was added.

December 2, 2003—CC Visalia celebrated God's provision of an expanded facility with their church family and Calvary pastors. After a pre-event dinner in the Calvary Café, the capacity crowd was blessed by Latin-style worship performed by the Gutierrez Brothers from CC Santa Fe Springs.

Visalia civic leaders, local law enforcement agencies, and business leaders spoke about their relationship with Pastor Bob Grenier and CC Visalia. They acknowledged God's work in their lives and the lives of the people in the community through the ministry. Several CC pastors shared with the congregation. David Rosales, CC Chino Valley, spoke of the importance in understanding the heart of God so we can then follow His perfect will for our lives.

New additions to the Calvary Chapel Visalia 13-acre campus totaled 8,500 square feet which included an expansion of the main sanctuary, four new classrooms, new bathrooms, additional office space, a state-of-the-art cafe, an outdoor pavilion, an expanded bookstore, a multimedia system, new parking, and a high quality skate park. Pastor Bob expressed joy as he related God's blessings.



Senior Pastor Bob Grenier.

FAITH TESTED AND SOULS WON: INTRODUCING THE BRIDGE FM

Racing her car down the freeway after witnessing her husband's infidelity, a woman questioned, "What do I do? Do I leave him?" Just then she heard the voice on the radio explain God's principles for marriage. She slowed her car and paid attention. What she heard changed her life. The woman called the number given during that Bible program and received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She then listened to counsel and is working on saving her marriage.

This is just one example of the power of God's Word as it is broadcast to nearly 6.7

million people in the NY/NJ metropolitan area on The Bridge FM. Heard in New York and northern New Jersey on 103.1 FM, in central New Jersey on 89.7 FM, and worldwide via www.bridgefm.org, The Bridge features Calvary Chapel and Bible-based pastors from across the country, as well as contemporary praise and worship music.

"The response to The Bridge has been tremendous," said Lloyd Pulley, senior pastor of CC Old Bridge, which owns the station. "In a few short months, we have learned

of people who have come to know Christ through the program and others who have been strengthened in their walk with Him."

The Bridge FM first aired in 2003 and is a testimony of God's work despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles. "The purchase of this station" said Lloyd, "was fraught with tests of faith like I've never experienced before in ministry. But this is Metro NY/NJ and obstacles are to be expected, since we are breaking into areas that are held captive by the 'prince of the power of the air' and are famished for the Word of God."

DOES YOUR MINISTRY HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS TO SHARE WITH THE CALVARY CHAPEL FAMILY?

Calvary Chapel Magazine desires to inform the entire Calvary Chapel family of reports that would encourage and bless fellow believers. Your senior pastor must authorize submissions.

- 1) **Your church's involvement in missions**
- 2) **News of mission trips upon return (we encourage teams to inform the magazine *months* in advance)**
- 3) **Church events that would inform/appeal to national/international audience**
- 4) **Testimonies of God's faithfulness to your church family**

Please email news briefs to cmm@calvarychapel.com as a word document—no more than 200 words. Send scanned photos as JPEGs or TIFF files on CD at 300 dpi to: CC Magazine, 1103 Potomac Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22405. CDs will not be returned.